

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of December 7, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 12-14 have been withdrawn. Claims 16-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-11, 15, and 22 remain in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-22 were pending, and these claims were restricted to the following two groups:

Group I: Claims 1-19 and 22

Group II: Claims 20-21

Applicant elects, without traverse, Group I (Claims 1-19 and 22) for prosecution in the present application. Applicants have canceled claims 20-21 without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to file one or more of these claims under separate divisional, continuation, and/or continuation-in-part applications.

In addition, the Office Action requests restriction to one of the following patentably distinct species:

A) Figures 2-5

B) Figure 6

Applicant elects, without traverse, the claims directed to the species of Figures 2-5 for prosecution on the merits. As such, Applicant has identified claims 12-14 and 16-19 as included features directed to the species illustrated in Figure 6. Applicants have canceled independent claim 16 and dependent claims 17-19 without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to file one or more of these claims under separate divisional, continuation, and/or continuation-in-part applications.

However, Applicant notes that claims 12-14 are dependent claims from original independent claim 1, which is illustrative in Figures 2-6 and elected herein. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to join the one or more features of dependent claims 12-14 should the present case proceed to Allowance.

In sum, claims 1-11, 15, and 22 remain pending in this application.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that additional discussion and/or amendment would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 20, 2006

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